

SHEPSHED  
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT.

---

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR

1909.

BY

THOMAS BELL, M.D., C.M.

Medical Officer of Health.

---

SHEPSHED :  
H. FREEMAN, PRINTER, MARKET PLACE.



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b30081622>

# R E P O R T.

---

*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I herewith present to you my Annual Report on the health of your District for the year 1909.

At the last census (1901) the population was 5293, The Population, with an average number of 4.4 persons per house. My estimate at the middle of the year is 5600—an increase of 100 on that of last year.

The increase of births over nett deaths was 64, as Natural increase, compared with 78 last year.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of births registered during the year was Births, 133 (63 males and 70 females). Of these births 3 were illegitimate. The birth rate is therefore 23.75 per 1000 inhabitants, as compared with 25.4 for 1908. The average birth rate for the ten preceding years is 28.1. The birth rate for this year, though not the lowest on record—(in 1897 it was 22.4,)<sup>1</sup>—is next lowest.

The total number of deaths registered as occurring in Deaths, the District was 62 (37 males and 25 females), the same as last year. This is equivalent to a death rate of 11 per 1000 living, as compared with 11.2 last year. Last year I had the pleasure of recording the lowest death rate (for

deaths occurring in the District), and this year this death rate is lower still. The average death rate for the last decade is 13.8.

However, as 7 persons belonging to the District died during the year in public institutions outside the District (2 in the Loughborough Workhouse and 5 in the County Asylum), the nett deaths belonging to the District number 69; and the nett death rate is therefore raised to 12.5, as compared with 12 for last year.

**Inquests.** Two were held during the year, and in both cases the deaths were attributed to natural causes.

**Infant Mortality.** Thirteen deaths of children under 1 year of age were registered, giving an infant mortality of 97.7 per 1000 births registered, as compared with 135 for the previous year. This also compares most favourably with the previous decennial average, which was 144. This is the lowest infant mortality on record for your District, that of 1898 (which was 98) being next. The number includes the death of 1 illegitimate infant. Of the 13 deaths, 3 were due to diarrhoeal diseases, 5 to wasting diseases, and 5 to other causes.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

**Notifications** Sixty-two cases were notified, including Diphtheria 1, Erysipelas 8, and Scarlet Fever 53. The total number of notifications received since the adoption of the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889, is 362.

**Zymotic Mortality.** Two deaths were due to the notifiable infectious diseases (Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever claiming 1 each), and 2 to Epidemic Diarrhoea, making a total of 4 deaths due to zymotic diseases, and a zymotic mortality of 0.7, as compared with 0.9 for last year.

**Diphtheria.** Only one case was notified, and unfortunately it ended fatally of sudden heart failure, after the throat had been cleared by the use of the anti-toxin serum. The house in

which this case occurred was in an excellent sanitary condition. The serum is supplied by your Council for cases of Diphtheria. Swabs are supplied by the County Council, the bacteriological examination of which will decide the diagnosis of doubtful sore throats.

Eight cases were notified, all of a mild character. Erysipelas.

Unfortunately I have to record a rather extensive Scarlet Fever epidemic of this disease. Fifty-three cases were notified, of which 1 ended fatally. Two cases occurred at Lubelcloud Farm, and were imported from Syston. None of the other cases can be traced to these two.

The epidemic extended from the beginning of June till the end of the year. It will be noticed from the following table that a few cases occurred during the month of June, none during July, and a few during August ; but when the schools re-opened after the summer holidays, the number of cases suddenly increased. Again, during December there was a considerable decrease.

June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
6	9	5	14	14	11	3

In many instances 2 and 3 cases (and in one instance 6) occurred in one house.

The number of cases amongst school children are as follows :—

Church of England Schools	...	...	20
Undenominational	„	...	14
Roman Catholic	„	...	13

At no time was the school attendance affected to any marked extent. Also, I found after many visits to the schools, that the cases seem to have been well distributed, not only amongst the schools, but also amongst the various classes of each school. I do not think that there were any grounds for school closure.

All the cases were treated at home, there being no Isolation Hospital. The isolation of cases of Scarlet Fever

in cottages is mostly futile. However, under the present circumstances the best was done. The schools were immediately notified of the occurrence of a case, and children from infected houses were excluded. Manufacturers are also notified, and orders sent prohibiting the sending of home-work to infected premises.

Whooping Cough.

Two cases were seen (both in one house) at the end of December, and in this instance the disease was imported from Loughborough.

Chicken-pox.

This disease was prevalent amongst children attending the Church of England Schools during June and July.

Influenza.

Many cases were seen during December.

Diarrhoea.

Very few cases were seen, the summer of 1909 not being favourable to this disease. However, 2 children (aged respectively 4 months and 2 years) died of it.

Disinfection.

Disinfecting fluids and powders are freely given to infected houses, which are also disinfected by "Vaporform" lamps on the termination of the disease. The schools were disinfected once during the year.

## TUBERCULAR DISEASES.

Phthisis.

There is certainly a decrease in the number of cases of Phthisis in the District. Voluntary notification has not been adopted, and it seems to have been a failure in those districts where it was adopted. Compulsory notification, placing Phthisis in the same category as the other infectious diseases, is bound to come; and, if accompanied by powers to local authorities for efficient isolation of consumptives, would be of great benefit to the community.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, came into force during the year, making notification of Phthisis by Poor Law Medical Officers to the Local Sanitary Authority compulsory. Eight cases were notified under these regulations. Each was given a copy of the "Instructions to Consumptives," and was also individually advised as to preventive measures.

Only 3 persons died of Phthisis, producing a Phthisis death rate of 0·53 per 1000 living, as compared with 0·3 for last year. Both these figures compare favourably with those for the former years, as is shown in the following table :—

Year.	No of Deaths from Phthis	Phthisis Death rate per 1000 living.
1900	7	1·4
1901	9	1·7
1902	6	1·1
1903	10	1·9
1904	7	1·3
1905	8	1·4
1906	7	1·2
1907	10	1·8
1908	2	·3
1909	3	·53

The Phthisis death rate for the county for 1908 was 0·97.

One of the 3 deaths was that of a man who was only a few weeks in residence in the District. The houses in which the deaths occurred were disinfected.

Three deaths were due to other forms of Tuberculosis (2 from Tubercular Peritonitis, and 1 from Tubercular Meningitis—all children). Therefore, the total deaths due to Tuberculosis number 6, and the Tubercular death rate is 1·07 per 1000 living.

## WATER SUPPLY.

This is mostly derived from wells. Six samples were examined, 3 being good and 3 unfit for drinking purposes. In 1 case the well was condemned, and a supply obtained from the public main; and in the case of the remaining 2 the wells were cleaned.

Each year I have to report a number of connections with the Blackbrook water mains, 31 having been made during the year for the supply of 70 houses and 1 factory.

There are now about 270 houses and 7 factories supplied from the Loughborough Corporation (Blackbrook) mains. Where a supply can be obtained from this source, all new houses are connected.

## SEWERAGE.

### The Sewers.

The street man-holes have been frequently examined and cleaned. One man-hole (Pick street) was found blocked, and a new cover was provided to allow of more frequent examination.

Twenty-six connections have been made with the sewers, viz., 4 in Lant street; 3 each in Charnwood road and Leicester road; 2 each in King's road, Garendon road, Church side, Belton street, and Brook street; and 1 each in Sullington road, Factory street, Kirkhill street, Loughborough road, Hall croft, and The Flatts. With the exception of the Hall croft sewer, all were found clear, and in this case it was cleaned out as far as possible.

### Water Closets.

Twelve new water-closets were connected with the sewers, making a total of 58 in the District.

### Sewage Farm

Broad irrigation is the method employed for sewage disposal. The farm consists of 12 acres, and of these 8 acres are divided by means of dykes into beds, which have been planted with osiers during the year. The sludge from the detritus chamber and dykes is spread over the remaining 4 acres, on which "seeds" are grown. The heavy rain-fall of the year has made it imperative to employ considerably more labour at the farm than in former years, in order to maintain its efficiency. The detritus chamber and dykes have been regularly cleaned out.

## SCAVENGING.

The present contractor continues to give satisfaction, very few complaints having been received. There are now 419 pails to be emptied weekly, an increase of 19 for the year. Every opportunity is taken to convert privy middens into pail closets.

Household rubbish and trade refuse are removed when such are placed in suitable boxes, &c. This arrangement gives every satisfaction.

## NUISANCES.

Joint inspections were made during the year; and I have to report that better sanitary conditions prevail generally, though in some older properties there is room for improvement.

## BAKEHOUSES.

Bakehouses, butchers' shops, slaughter houses, fish shops, and 1 knacker's yard were inspected, and 2 notices were issued for lime-washing and cleansing.

## PLANS AND BUILDINGS.

Sixteen plans, including 32 houses and 1 extension of a factory, were submitted to and passed by your Council.

The total number of houses inhabited in July was 1270, as compared with 1244 last year, and with 1161 at the last census. There were at that time (July) 32 empty houses. The greater number of the inhabited houses (many of recent construction), are most satisfactory, but some of the older properties require attention.

Only 1 case was found, and this is being dealt with. Overcrowding.

There are none in the District. Common Lodging Houses.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILK-SHOPS ORDER.

These regulations have been in force for four years, and cow-keepers (53 in number) are registered. Seventy-two inspections were made, and 15 notices (8 for lime-

washing and 7 for sanitary improvements) were issued, 14 of which were complied with. Fifty cowsheds are supplied by water from wells, and 3 from the public main. One sample of well water was examined and found good.

More frequent cleansing of the floors of the sheds and of the immediate surroundings is desirable.

## FACTORIES & WORKSHOPS.

### Factories.

The Factories are:—Hosiery 7, Boot and Shoe 4, Lace 1, Joiners' 3, Brickworks 1, making a total of 16. One new Hosiery factory was opened during the year, and 1 Boot and Shoe factory was closed. These were all inspected twice during the year: one inspection was made with special reference to sanitary conveniences. It was found that these were by no means satisfactory. Fifteen notices were issued, viz., 3 for insufficient sanitary accommodation, 8 for unsuitable accommodation, and 4 for lime-washing.

### Workshops.

These number 52, and are as follows:—Hosiery 24, Boot and Shoe 5, Needlemaker 1, Printer 1, Dressmakers 9, Tailors 6, Bakehouses 6. These were all inspected, and only 6 notices were issued for lime-washing.

### Homework.

Nine manufacturers sent lists of out-workers twice in the year, (including addresses of 3 contractors and 597 work-people); and four once in the year (including addresses of 46 work-people), making a total of 22 lists and 646 work-people. Forty-eight addresses were received from, and 79 addresses sent to, other authorities. Six notices were sent to manufacturers for failing to send their lists. 280 inspections of out-workers premises were made; and 17 orders sent to occupiers of factories and work-shops to prohibit the giving out of home-work to houses infected with scarlet fever.

## RÉSUMÉ.

I beg to draw your attention to the following :—

- (i.) The low birth rate (23.75)—this being the lowest but one on record.
- (ii.) The low death rate (11)—that, calculated on the number of deaths occurring within the District, being the lowest recorded ; and the nett death rate (12.5), though not the lowest, being well under that of recent years.
- (iii.) The lowest infant mortality (97.7) on record for the District.
- (iv.) The low Phthisis death rate (0.53).
- (v.) The great number of cases of Scarlet Fever, with no means for proper isolation, and no efficient means for disinfecting bedding and clothes.
- (vi.) The increasing number of houses supplied by the public water supply, tending to better health conditions.
- (vii.) The gradual, though slow, improvement in the conditions of Dairies and Cowsheds, producing a purer milk supply.
- (viii.) The new regulations concerning sanitary conveniences at factories have produced a decided improvement there.
- (ix.) The general sanitary condition of the District is good.

I have the honour, Gentlemen, to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

**Thomas Bell.**

*Shepshed,*

*4th February, 1910.*

## TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1909  
and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT				Deaths of Residents regis- tered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.		
				Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.					
		Number	Rate.*	Number	Rate per 1000 births registered.	Number	Rate.*		Number	Rate.*	
1899	5000	151	30.2	19	125	67	13.4	...	...	...	
1900	5000	158	31.6	34	215	96	19.2	...	...	...	
1901	5293	163	30.8	24	147	73	13.8	...	...	...	
1902	5293	154	29.1	19	123	64	12	...	...	...	
1903	5293	160	30.2	18	112	70	13.2	1	71	13.4	
1904	5400	151	27	19	125	74	13.7	4	78	14.4	
1905	5500	144	26.1	25	173	92	16.7	3	95	17.2	
1906	5550	138	24.8	26	188	67	12	6	73	13.1	
1907	5500	145	26.3	15	103	72	13.1	3	75	13.6	
1908	5500	140	25.4	19	135	62	11.2	4	66	12	
Averages for years 1899-1908.	5332	150	28.1	21.8	144	73	13.8	...	...	...	
1909	5600	133	23.75	13	97.7	62	11	7	69	12.5	

\* Rates calculated per 1000 of the estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 5280.

Total population of all ages at census of 1901, 5293.

Number of inhabited houses   ,,   ,, 1161.

Average number of persons per house   ,,   4.4.

## TABLE II. Not required for this District.

**TABLE III.**

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during  
the Year 1909.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						
	At all Ages	At Ages—Years.					
	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards	
Small-pox ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) } 1	...	...	1	.	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ...	8	...	1	1	1	5	...
Scarlet Fever ... ...	53	1	9	39	4	...	...
Typhus Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Relapsing Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague ... ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
 Totals ... ...	 62	 1	 10	 41	 5	 5	 ...

## TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1909.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING IN OR BEYOND THE DISTRICT.							
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and up- wards.	
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Scarlet Fever	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup) }	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Fever { Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other continued	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Epidemic Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Diarrhoea	...	2	1	1	...	...	...	
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Gastritis	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Plithisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) }	...	3	...	...	...	1	2	
Other tuberculous diseases	...	3	...	2	1	...	...	
Cancer, malignant disease	...	7	...	...	...	...	6	
Bronchitis	...	4	2	1	...	...	...	
Pneumonia	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Other diseases of Respiratory organs}	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Venereal disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Premature birth	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	
Diseases and accidents {	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
of parturition }	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Heart diseases	...	13	1	...	...	5	7	
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Suicides	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
All other causes	...	29	6	1	1	8	13	
All causes	...	69	13	6	4	1	19	26

TABLE V.

# INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1909.

Deaths from stated Causes in Weeks and Months under One Year of Age.

## District of Shesheesh

Population,  
Estimated to middle of 1909,  
5,600.

Births in the year	legitimate	130	Deaths in the year of	legitimate infants	...	12
	illegitimate	3		illegitimate "	...	1

Deaths from all causes at all ages ... 62

## District of SHEPHERD.

Population,  
Estimated to middle of 1909,  
5,600.

Births in the year	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{legitimate} \\ \text{illegitimate} \end{array} \right\}$	130	Deaths in the year of	$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{legitimate infants} \\ \text{illegitimate} \end{array} \right\}$	...	12
						5,600.

## Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

### 1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ... ...	30	15	0
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ...	52	6	0
Total ... ... ... ...	82	21	0

### 2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness ... ...	6	6	0	0
Sanitary accommodation—				
Insufficient ... ...	3	3	0	0
Unsuitable or defective ... ...	8	8	0	0
Not separate for sexes ... ...	0	0	0	0
Total ... ... ... ...	17	17	0	0

### 3.—HOME WORK. Wearing Apparel, Making, &c.

Lists received from Employers	... ...	Twice in the year ...	18	Contractors 3 Workmen 597
Addresses of Outworkers ...	... ...	Once in the year ...	4	Contractors 0 Workmen 46
Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending lists	... ...	Received from other Councils	...	48
Prosecutions ... ...	... ...	Forwarded to other Councils	...	79
Inspections of Outworkers' premises ... ...	... ...	Failing to keep or permit inspection of lists	...	6
Outworkers in infected premises ...	... ...	Failing to send lists	...	0
Instances Orders made	... ...	...	...	280
Orders made	... ...	...	...	17
Instances	... ...	...	...	17

### 4.—REGISTERED WORKSHOPS.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.					Number.
Hosiery ... ...	...	...	...	...	24
Boot and Shoe ... ...	...	...	...	...	5
Needleworker ... ...	...	...	...	...	1
Printer ... ...	...	...	...	...	1
Tailors ... ...	...	...	...	...	6
Dressmakers ... ...	...	...	...	...	9
Bakehouses ... ...	...	...	...	...	6
Total number of Workshops on Register	...	...	...	...	52

### 5.—OTHER MATTERS.—Nil.

